

# New Mexico's County and Tribal Health Councils

*Value to our State's Public Health Infrastructure*

---

Susan Wilger, NMAHC - Interim Executive Director  
Susie Johnson, Public Health Project Manager,  
Edith Vasquez, Luna County Health Council  
Lisa Daniel, Sierra County Health Council

**Rural and Economic Opportunities Task Force**  
**September 19, 2022**



# Overview of Presentation

- I. HM 2 Taskforce Recommendations
- II. New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils : Who We Are
- III. Health Council Priorities & Community Impacts
- IV. Sierra and Luna Health Council Stories
- V. Impact of Underfunding
- VI. Opportunity to Invest

Questions and Feedback



# HM 2 Public Health Taskforce Recommendations

## OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2021 the Legislator passed H.M. 2, establishing a Public Health Task Force to study New Mexico's public health infrastructure and make recommendations for improvement.

The task force recommends fully funding County & Tribal Health Councils and NMAHC to:

- ✦ BUILD THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH COUNCILS
- ✦ MOBILIZE DIVERSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
- ✦ STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY VOICE

A study conducted in 2003 indicated:



# About Us: New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils

## *Mobilizing Communities for Health*

**Our mission:** is to improve the health of all New Mexicans by supporting and strengthening county and tribal health councils, advocating for health equity, and by providing a strong voice for community and public health.

**What we do:** The Alliance offers training, coordination, convening, opportunities for collaboration and advocacy in support of health councils' role in promoting community health. Health Councils and supporters of health councils are eligible to be members of the Alliance.

The Alliance has 3 strategic focus areas:

- 1** PROMOTING EQUITY AND INCLUSION
- 2** SUPPORTING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HEALTH COUNCILS
- 3** BUILDING OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ALLIANCE



# Building Access to Services:

## House Bill 137

### 2019 County and Tribal Health Councils Act:

County & Tribal Health Councils were **established in 1991** by the New Mexico legislature

The functions of health councils were **reaffirmed in 2019** by the County and Tribal Health Councils Act (HB 137)

*County and Tribal Health Councils are mandated with the following tasks:*



Listen to, communicate with, convene, and engage diverse community members in order to...



Review local data, assess the health of the community, and consider root causes for gaps in well-being, in order to...



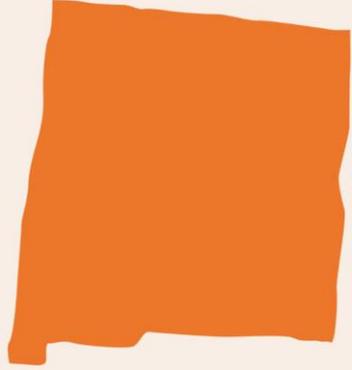
Plan towards community-prioritized solutions to improve health and equity for all, and...



Advise local and state government on policies to improve community health, based on collaborative work.

# New Mexico

## Centralized, Statewide Health Department



NEW MEXICO IS  
**1 of only 6 states**

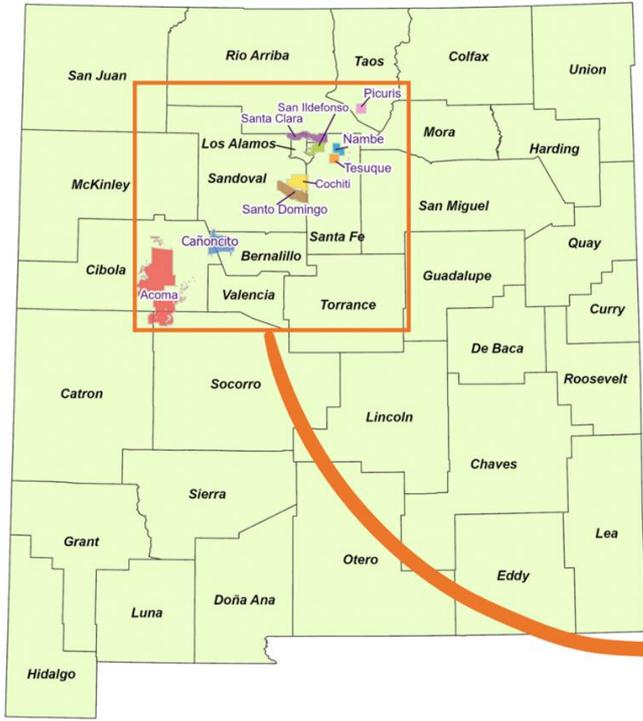
WITH A CENTRALIZED, STATEWIDE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, RATHER THAN COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL-BASED HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

- Critical need for health councils to play a **key role in community- based health assessments, planning, and action** at the local level
- Community- based health improvement is a **fundamental function of health departments and criteria for public health accreditation**

*NMDOH Public Health Division and its regional public health promotion teams **work closely with County & Tribal Health Councils** to develop vital partnerships to improve population health and decrease health disparities*



# County and Tribal Health Councils



THERE ARE...  
**33** COUNTY HEALTH COUNCILS &  
**9** TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS



LOCATION OF TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS IN NEW MEXICO

## Tribal Health Councils

- Pueblo of Acoma
- Canoncito Band of Navajos
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Pueblo of Nambé
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo

# Value of Community

## *Voice and Representation*

**Live** in and come from the communities

**Advocate** for local health priorities

**Connect** with the community

**Understand** health-related disparities

Health **care**, health **promotion**, and disease **prevention** education, services

---

### New Mexico's Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations

Tribal  
Sovereignty

Leadership  
Authorization

Self  
Determination

Tribal Processes  
& Procedures

Timeline

Cultural  
Understanding &  
Competence

Historical  
Context

Native language,  
traditions, &  
beliefs

# All Pueblo Council of Governors

**SINCE NMAHC CREATED A TRIBAL LIAISON POSITION IN 2021, THE NUMBER OF TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS HAS INCREASED FROM 5 TO 9**

TRIBAL LEADERS & A GROWING NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS INDICATE TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO NEW MEXICO.



The APCG supports the partnership of NMAHC and the Pueblos.

Former Governor of Tesuque and APCG Chairman Mark Mitchell encourages and invites all the Pueblos to consider joining NMAHC in the future if they choose to do so.



**NMAHC Goal:**  
Partner with 2 Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations per year

# County and Tribal Health Councils *Tackling COVID-19 Pandemic*

In 2021, 37 of the 42 County and Tribal Health Councils received **\$50,000 each distributed** annually for 2 years. This allowed them to **collaborate locally to assess, plan, and act to address the COVID-19 crisis.**



## IMPACT OF INCREASED FUNDING

In the first 8 months of receiving increased funding:



**100%** OF HEALTH COUNCILS ESTABLISHED A HEALTH EQUITY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON EQUITY, TACKLE HEALTH DISPARITY & ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES.



**100%** OF HEALTH COUNCILS HELD VACCINE TESTING EVENTS AND DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 RISKS & RESOURCES WITH LOCAL PARTNERS TO MEET BOTH EMERGING & LONG-STANDING HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

As a part of their vaccine equity work, between **October 2021** and **April 2022**:

HEALTH COUNCILS PARTICIPATED IN

**473**

VACCINE EQUITY  
EVENTS

HEALTH COUNCILS DISTRIBUTED

**24,886**

PANDEMIC RELATED INFORMATIONAL  
ITEMS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

HEALTH COUNCILS REACHED

**345,665**

NEW MEXICANS



# County and Tribal Health Councils

## *Health Councils Community Impact*

HEALTH COUNCILS COORDINATE LOCAL SERVICES, RESULTING IN:



COLLABORATION



DUPLICATION



COST  
SAVINGS

HEALTH COUNCILS SUPPORT LOCALLY DRIVEN AND COLLABORATIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND ACTION, INVOLVING:



COMMUNITY MEMBERS



HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



STATE AGENCIES



VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS



SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

HEALTH COUNCILS SECURE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO COMMUNITIES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROPOSALS.



# County and Tribal Health Councils

## Health Councils Community Impact

HEALTH COUNCILS ADVOCATE FOR POLICY CHANGES AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ACROSS AREAS OF:



MENTAL HEALTH



PANDEMICS & EPIDEMICS



SUBSTANCE USE



THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

HEALTH COUNCILS ADDRESS HEALTH DISPARITIES BY FOCUSING ON ROOT CAUSES SUCH AS:

- ▶ structural racism
- ▶ policies that result in conditions which make certain populations more vulnerable to health risk factors, including lack of insurance, insufficient plumbing or electricity, etc.

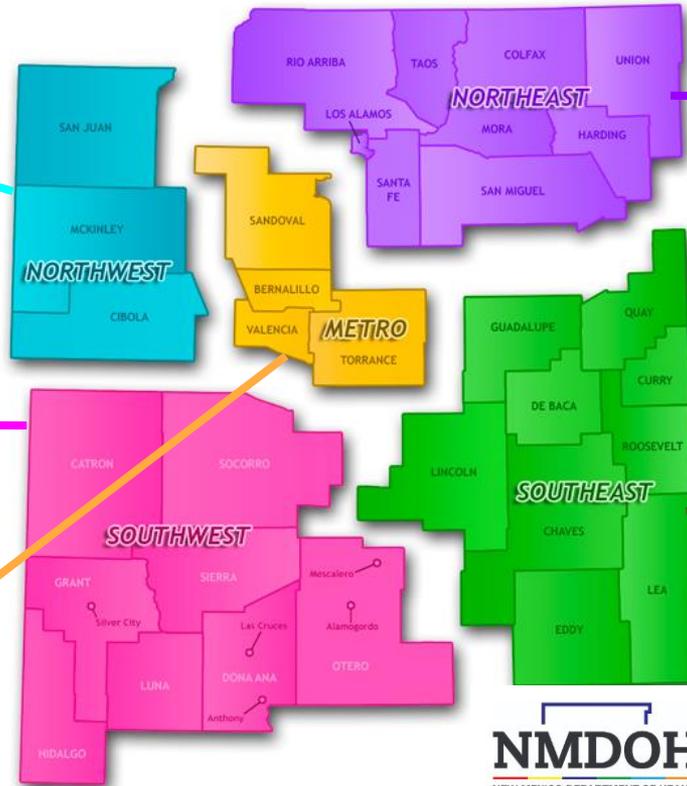
# Health Council Health Priorities

## NMDOH Regions

- Alcohol Abuse
- Child Abuse/ ACEs- Bullying
- Physician Recruitment and Retention
- Healthy Food and Nutrition
- Sexual Violence/ Assault/
- Mental/ Behavioral Health
- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Food Access
- Undersage Drincking
- Racial, social, and economic injustices impact on population health

- Health Food and Nutrition
- Sexual Violence/ Assault
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Underage Drinking

- Child Abuse/ ACEs- Bullying
- Physician Recruitment and Retention
- Healthy Food and Nutrition
- Sexual Violence/ Assault/
- Mental/ Behavioral Health
- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Food Access
- Undersage Drincking



- Access to Care
- Alcohol Muse & Underage Drinking
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Child, Youth, & Individuals at Risk
- Diabetes
- Healthy Foods
- Low Birth Weight Babies
- People in Crisis or Poverty
- Substance Misuse
- Suicide Prevention
- Transportation
- Veterans Services

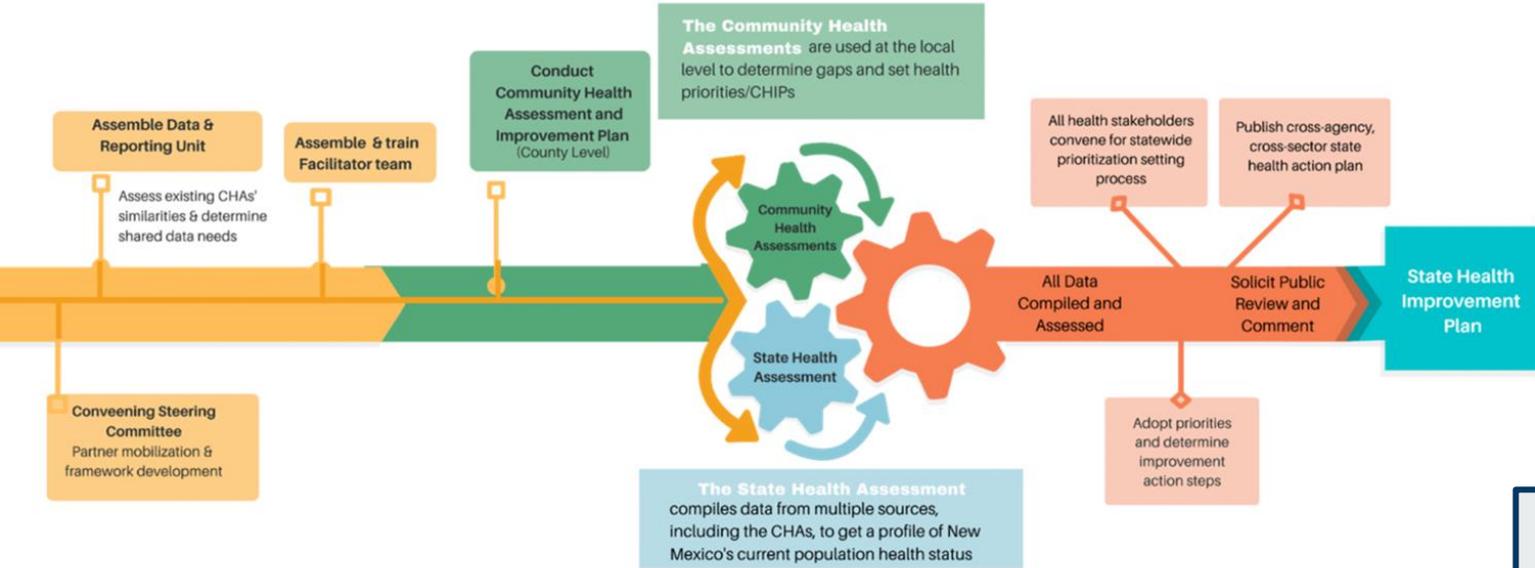
- Alcohol Abuse
- Healthy Food and Nutrition
- Sexual Violence/ Assault
- Metal/ Behavioral Health
- Obesity/ Diabetes
- Substance Abuse
- Food Access

# NMDOH CHIP/SHIP Process

## County and Tribal Health Council Involvement

### New Mexico's - State Health Improvement Plan Process

Adapted from Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework



Individual County and Tribal Health Council Community Improvement Plans



"Community priorities become state priorities"



State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)<sub>14</sub>

# Stories from Health Councils

**Luna County  
Health Council**

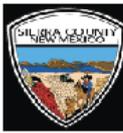
Edith Vazquez

**Sierra County  
Health Council**

Lisa Daniel



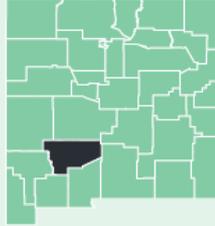




# 2022 SIERRA COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL

## MISSION:

Unite community efforts to enhance the health and wellbeing of all Sierra County residents.



Sierra County encompasses Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte and Williamsburg with many other outlined small communities. Sierra County has a population of 11,576 people with a 22.1% poverty rate<sup>†</sup>. Sierra County also has a high rate of suicide and drug overdoses compared to the National Averages and no public transportation<sup>‡</sup>.

## PRIORITIES:

Educate and provide prevention strategies to address teen pregnancy and sexual activity, mental health / substance misuse, and obesity/nutrition.



In 2018 Teen Birth Rates per 1,000 girls was 24.7\*



37.4% of our county's population is 65 or older. †



In 2018 Sierra county had 69.4 overdose deaths per



For 2018 the suicide rate in Sierra count stood at 52.0 per 100,000<sup>‡</sup>



## COVID-19

Partnered with Sierra County Public Health Office and Sierra Vista Hospital to encourage testing, early treatment, and vaccination.



Contact info: [john.kutinac@state.nm.us](mailto:john.kutinac@state.nm.us)

\* New Mexico Birth Certificate Database, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, New Mexico Department of Health

† 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

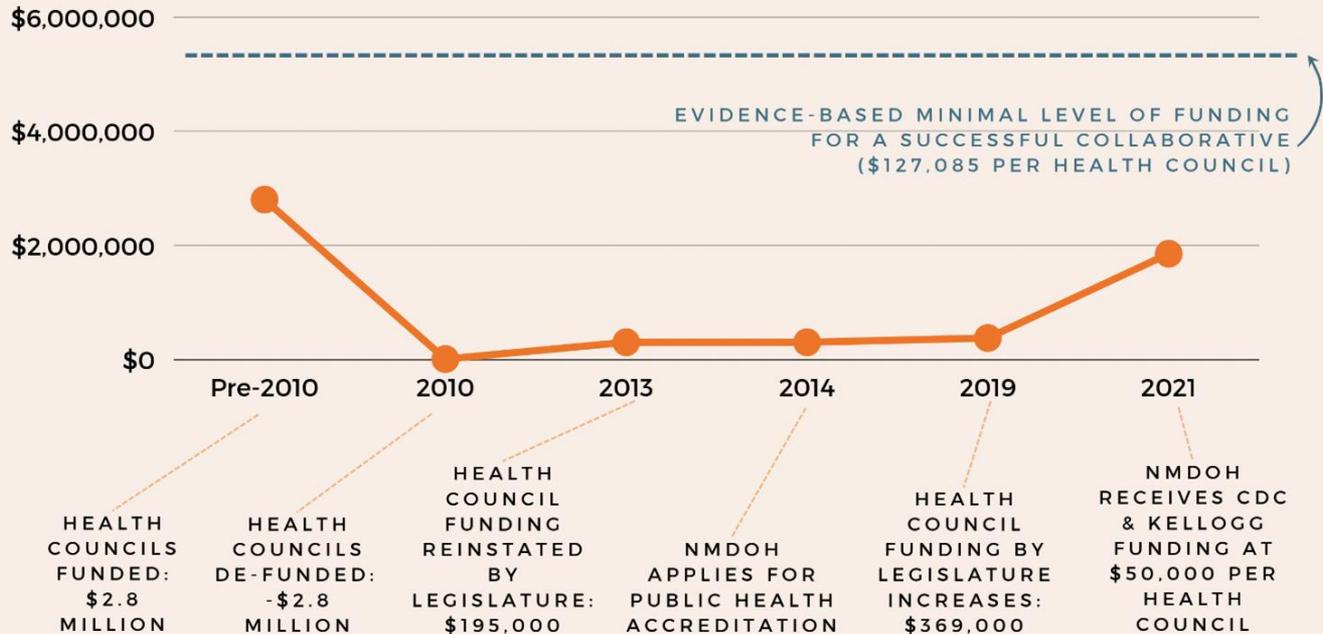
‡ New Mexico Death Certificate Database, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, New Mexico Department of Health

§ New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, New Mexico Department of Health and Public Education Department

# County and Tribal Health Councils

## History of Underfunding

**NM COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL FUNDING OVER TIME**



# County and Tribal Health Councils: *Underfunding*

## Statute

*County and Tribal Health Councils are mandated by House Bill 137 to fulfill their roles and responsibilities with **LIMITED** funding*

### FY 2022:

NMDOH: \$9,461 per Health Council per year

### FY 2023:

NMDOH : \$12, 952 per Health Council per year

### FY 2021 - 2023 (2 year grant):

CDC & Kellogg Foundation Funding: \$50,000 per Health Council/ year

From 2013 to 2022, County and Tribal Health Councils received only 3-7% of what would be considered an evidence-based adequate level of funding from the state, only about \$4,000 - \$9,461 per health council per year.

# Opportunity to Invest

## *New Mexico's Public Health Infrastructure*

**ACTION NEEDED: INVEST IN NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN HEALTH PLANNING AND SOLUTIONS.**

**SUPPORT THE \$6.3 MILLION FUNDING PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES:**

**\$5,500,000**

**TO SUPPORT EACH COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCIL AT \$125,000 PER HEALTH COUNCIL PER YEAR**

**WITH ROOM TO FUND 2 ADDITIONAL HEALTH COUNCILS EACH YEAR**

**+**

**\$800,000**

**TO CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY (EX. NEW MEXICO ALLIANCE OF HEALTH COUNCILS)**

**TO PROVIDE STATEWIDE ANCILLARY SERVICES TO ALL COUNTY & TRIBAL HEALTH COUNCILS**

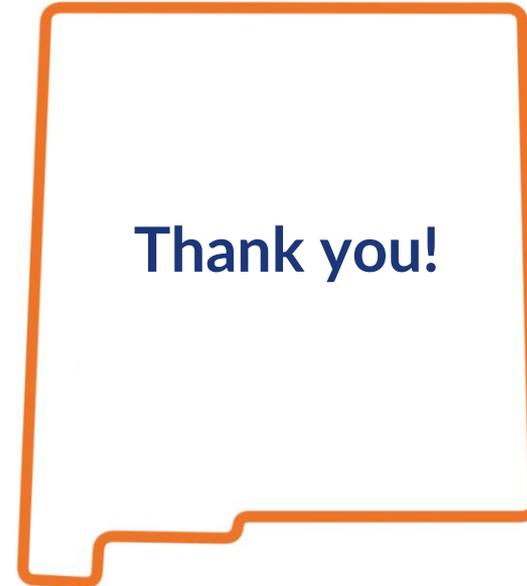
\*This amounts to a \$5,767,000 increase over the FY23 level of funding

# Questions and Feedback



*Questions  
Feedback*

*Please reach out to New Mexico Alliance of Health Councils for additional questions and comments!*



# Contact



**Susan Wilger**

NMAHC Interim Executive Director

[enchantednm2000@gmail.com](mailto:enchantednm2000@gmail.com)

(575) 313 - 4720



**Susie Johnson**

NMAHC

[Susie@nmhealthcouncils.org](mailto:Susie@nmhealthcouncils.org)

(575) 288-0891

